

NORTH WITCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended

31st December, 1961.



THE
FEDERAL
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FROM THE CHIEF OF BUREAU
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

1. [Illegible]
2. [Illegible]
3. [Illegible]
4. [Illegible]
5. [Illegible]

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

The Lindens,
Doddington,
March, Camos.
Tel.Doddington 206.

MR.CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my report for the year 1961 on the health condition of your district during that period.

I also present the Public Health Inspector's report.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CECIL THOMAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL PROVISION FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

(1) Public Health Committee.

This comprises the whole Council.

(2) Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health - CECIL THOMAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Public Health Inspector - JOHN METCALFE, M.R.S.H.

(3) Nursing in the Home.

The entire district has the services of Trained Nurses under the control of the Local Authority.

(4) Hospital.

Most Patients are now treated at Doddington Hospital.

(5) Ambulance Facilities.

These are controlled by the County Council.

(6) Child Welfare.

Clinics are held at Doddington and Manea.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The number of adults engaged on agricultural work continues to decrease with the drift towards factory employment in nearby towns. Seasonal employment on farm work is still available for many members of the female adult population.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	24,701
Population (estimated mid year by Registrar General) ...	4,650
Number of inhabited houses	1,634
Rateable Value	£37,277
Estimated net product of a penny rate	£139

The estimated population for mid year is below the figure for the Census return in 1961 which was 4,737.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

Number	62
Rate per 1000 population	13.08

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births 3.22

Still Births.

Number	Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births. ...	Nil

Total Live and Still Births.. ... 62

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year) ... 1

Infant Mortality Rates.

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births..	16.12
Legitimate " " " " legitimate live births	16.66
Illegitimate " " " " illegitimate " "	Nil

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)... Nil

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births) ... Nil

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births) Nil

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths.. ...	Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births. ...	Nil

Deaths in Area and Causes:

	M.	F.	Total.
Malignant neoplasm stomach	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	2	-	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	2	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	4	5
Coronary disease angina	9	1	10
Hypertension with heart disease	2	-	2
Other heart disease	4	9	13
Other circulatory disease	2	1	3
Pneumonia	5	2	7
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	5	6
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	-	1	1
	<u>37</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>62</u>


The death rate for the Rural District in 1961 was 13.08 per 1,000 population, compared with 13.41 for the previous year.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	<u>Total Notified.</u>
Measles	67
Pneumonia	6
Salmonella enteritis	1
Jaundice	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	<u>2</u>
	78
	<u>=</u>

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

There was one case of food poisoning (Salmonella Enteritis) notified in the Rural District during 1961.



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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR, 1961.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following are the numbers of visits and inspections carried out during 1961.

Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33.
Fried Fish Shops..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.
Vans and sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26.
Factory Acts Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68.
Bakehouses..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.
Sanitary Accommodation..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33.
Refuse Dumps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23.
Rats and Mice (including premises visited by Rodent Operator)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38.
Manure and Refuse Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.
Nightsoil Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.
Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90.
Dykes.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33.
Buildings under Construction and Alteration	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	234.
New Drain and Sewer inspections including tests.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41.
Sewer Tests.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52.
Petroleum Installations.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.
Poultry Farms and Piggeries...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56.
Fly Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32.
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.

INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES.

- (1) Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts and Housing Consolidated Regulations (excluding Council Houses) ... 25.
- (2) Number of houses surveyed for Slum Clearance (Not included in (1)) ... 9.
- (3) Number of Inspections for the above purpose (1) and (2) (including re-inspections). ... 63.
- (4) Number of Dwellings inspected under Rent Act, 1957 ... Nil.
- (5) Number of Inspections and Visits to houses in connection with Improvement Grants ... 44.
- (6) Number of Visits to Council Houses - Repairs, maintenance, and complaints, etc. ... 834.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Butchers' Shops...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.
Grocers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	19.
Ice Cream Premises (Retail)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.
Interviews and Meetings attended	...	...	...	...	...	...	921.

HOUSING.

During 1961, the Council completed the erection of 5 one bedroom type bungalows at Benwick, bringing the total of post war Council dwellings up to 214.

13 new dwellings were completed in 1961 by private enterprise, plus one new bungalow by a Drainage Authority to replace an existing house. Four more dwellings were in course of erection at the end of the year. The following new dwellings have been erected in the Council's area since 1945:-

Rural District Council	214
County Council Departments	6
Drainage Boards	4
Hospital Board	2
Private Enterprise	134
Private Enterprise (Conversions)	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>361</u>

At the beginning of the year the Council completed the purchase of the former Carpenters Arms P.H. at Wimblington, together with .704 acres of land suitable for the erection of several houses. The old house was utilised to re-house a family on the point of eviction from a farmhouse.

Some further progress was made on Slum Clearance as can be seen from the following figures:-

Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	2.
Closing Orders made...	...	...	...	...	...	4.
Houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders or voluntarily by owners.	...	...	...	...	...	6.
Closing Orders Revoked or Undertakings rescinded after houses made fit	...	...	...	...	...	2.
Houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied						
(1) after informal action by District Council.	...					10.
(2) after formal notice by District Council...	...					2.
Total number of dwellings demolished or closed during the period from 1st January, 1955 to 31st December, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	95.
Statutory Notices served for repairs under Section 9, Housing Act, 1957..	...	...	...	...	...	1.

As in previous years, a considerable amount of time is taken up in dealing with repairs and maintenance (including external repainting) of Council houses and 834 calls at such houses were made during the year for this purpose.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Only 7 applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants were received during 1961, all of which were approved for a total grant of £1,696. 13. 4d. Four schemes were completed and grants were paid during 1961 to a total value of £824. 9. 1d.

During the same period 9 applications were received and approved by the Council for Standard Grants under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959. The total value of the grants approved amounted to £947. 3. 3d. Four of these schemes, plus six earlier schemes were completed during the year and grants paid totalling £1,032. 11. 6d.

The amenities provided under Standard Grant schemes completed in 1961 were as follows:-

Baths	8
Wash Basins	9
Hot Water Systems	10
Water Closets	4
Larders	2

44 inspections (including reinspections) were made at premises in respect of improvement schemes.

One application was received for Grant under Section 46 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, which was not approved as the proposed dwelling was less than 2 miles from the centre of the nearest village.

BUILDING BYELAWS.

73 plans were deposited with the Council under their Building Byelaws, all of which were approved. 234 inspections were made of premises in course of erection or alteration, etc. under the Byelaws. 41 inspections were made of new drains under construction, including smoke testing drains at 35 premises. The Building Byelaws operating in the Council's area are similar to the Model issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and came into operation on the 7th November, 1953.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Statutory Water Authority for the area is the Wisbech & District Water Board. 10 dwellings on the outskirts of the Rural District are served by Water Undertakings from other areas.

The following information is supplied at the request of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government:-

(i) Once again it is gratifying to report that there has been a plentiful supply of water throughout the area served by Board's mains and there have been no complaints as to quality of the water supplied by the Board.

(ii) Normally routine independent sampling of piped water supplies is not carried out by the Council, as the Water Board's Chemist carried out frequent bacteriological examinations of the mains water at selected sampling points.

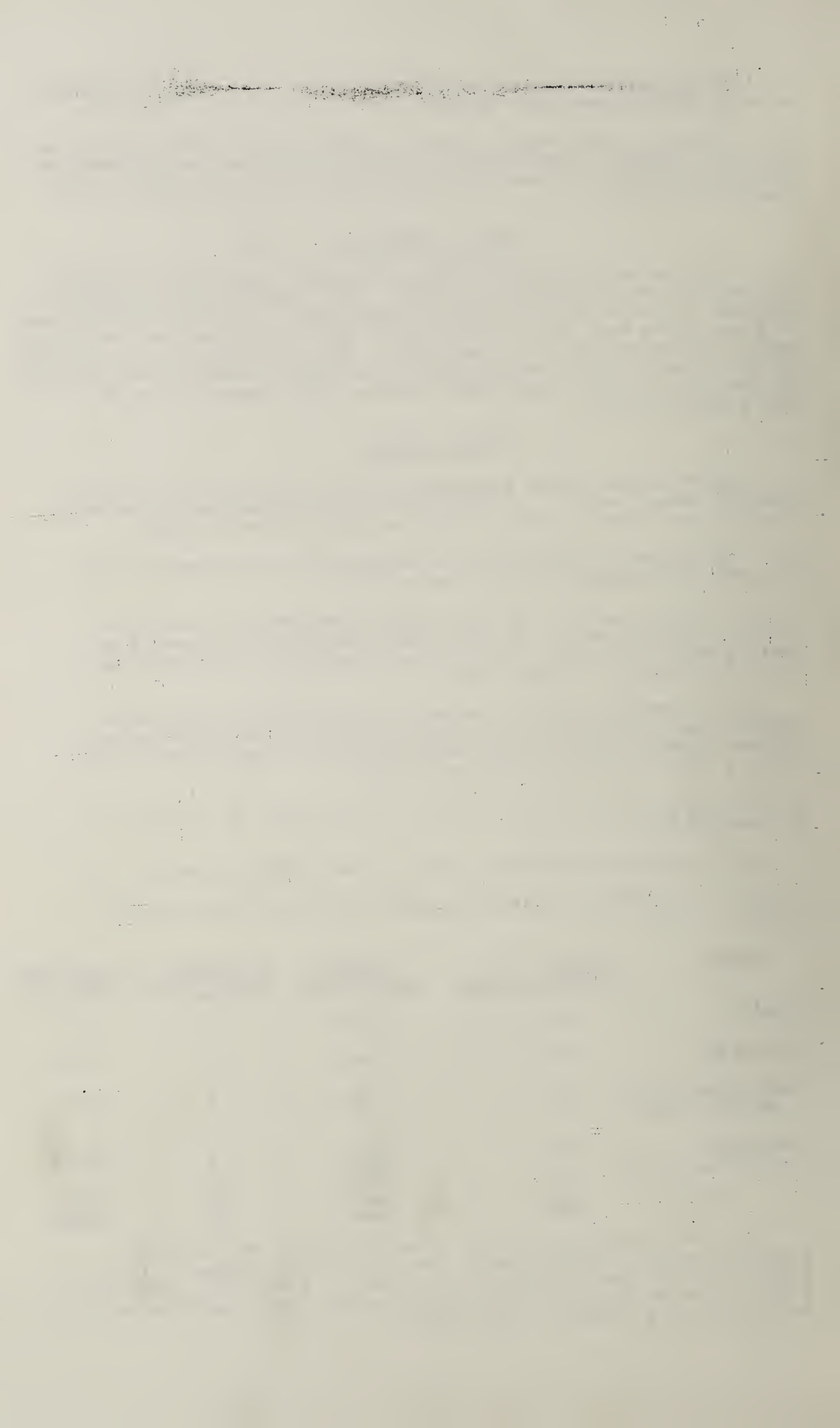
(iii) No action by the Council was necessary in respect of contamination.

(iv) The local supply of water is not plumbo-solvent.

(v) Proportion of dwelling houses supplied from public mains:-

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>No.of Occupied Houses.</u>	<u>No.with mains water.</u>	<u>No.without mains water.</u>	<u>Percentage Connected.</u>
Benwick	232	229	3	98.70
Doddington	458	441	17	96.28.
Manea (including Welches Dam).	486	482	4	99.17.
Wimblington (including Stonea).	458	450	8	98.25.
Totals	<u>1634</u>	<u>1602</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>98.04.</u>

For the following schedule of work carried out in North Witchford Rural District during 1961, and Water Analyses, I am indebted to Mr.Cyril Llanwarne, B.Sc.Tech., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., Water Engineer, and Mr.J.S.Collins, Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Wisbech and District Water Board:-



Mains extensions carried out in the North Witchford area during the year 1961.

Ransonmoor, Doddington.	540 yards	3" A.C.
	1,168 "	2" A.C.
Horsemoor, Wimblington.	900 "	3" A.C.
	444 "	2" A.C.

Additional premises connected during the year 1961.

Benwick	10
Doddington	11
Manea	13
Stonea	2
Wimblington	3
	<u>39</u>

Water Analyses 1961, North Witchford Rural District.

In order to maintain a pure and wholesome supply to the district, frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1961, on samples from the Board's sourceworks and the distribution system in this and adjoining areas. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

All new mains were sterilised, samples taken and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

Bacteriological Samples taken in the North Witchford Rural District and adjoining areas.

Place of Sampling	Total Tests Taken	No. of Tests Negative	No. of Tests Positive	% Negative Tests.
March	91	90	1	98.9%
Doddington	52	52	-	100%
Chatteris	104	104	-	100%
Manea	50	50	-	100%
Totals	297	296	1	99.7%

As a result of a "Fringe Order" made by St. Ives R.D.C. a piped supply of water was made available to a farmhouse near the boundary of the Council's area in Doddington Parish.

The ultimate goal of 100% of all occupied houses connected to the mains supply is becoming closer to being realised as gradually the older houses situated down droves remote from villages become redundant. Most of the few houses without mains water are so far from the water mains that it is not economically possible to take the water to them.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

Most of the houses in the oldest built-up area of Doddington, Wimblington and Manca are served by old combined storm and foul sewers, which discharge into obsolete works or catchpits, and thence to dykes. Some pollution by sewage matter occurs in these dykes and in turn in the main drains forming part of the extensive land drainage system in the area, resulting in complaints from occupiers of the land, Drainage Boards and the River Boards.

Minor improvements were made to the old filter beds at the King Stract works in Wimblington as suggested by Dr.H.Clay, the Pollution Prevention Officer to the Great Ouse River Board following an inspection he made of the works with a view to alleviating the pollution in the outfall dyke.

After several years of delay, work commenced on the Benwick Sewerage Scheme in May, following the acceptance of the tender of Messrs.H.J.Firman, Ltd. for the general contract in the sum of £59,914. 10. 8d. By the end of the year 1,631 yards of 6" glazed stoneware flexible jointed sewer pipes and 476 yards of 5" asbestos cement rising main had been laid and tested, together with the construction of manholes and the underground portion of one sewage pumping station. Part of the sewage disposal units had also been constructed. The scheme should be completed in 18 months from commencement.

The post-war housing estates at Wimblington and Manca have been equipped with modern sewage disposal plants, whilst the new housing estate at Doddington has a septic tank outfall connected with the filter beds forming part of the old sewage disposal works in the village.

The majority of houses which are situated in the unsewered areas of the District are provided with cesspool or septic tank drainage, and the Council operates an emptying service through a Contractor, one free emptying per annum being allowed. There is still a considerable number of houses equipped with pail closets at Benwick and Manca.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Nightsoil, which is collected by contractors, is composted with straw for use as manure on arable land. The contracts provide for three collections of closet pails per fortnight the number of closets being dealt with at the end of the year was 315. The number of pail closets converted to water closets in 1961 was rather lower than in previous years, as will be seen by the following tables.

Closet Conversions 1961.

<u>Village.</u>	<u>Improvement Grant Schemes.</u>	<u>Others.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Benwick	1	1	2
Doddington	2	1	3
Manca	4	-	4
Wimblington (with Stonea)	2	2	4
	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>13</u>

The following table shows the progress on closet conversions during the past six years:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Grant Schemes.</u>	<u>Others.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1956	9	25	34
1957	5	21	26
1958	6	44	50
1959	6	14	20
1960	23	21	44
1961	9	4	13
	<u>58</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>187</u>

Cesspools and vaults are emptied upon request from occupiers by one of the Contractors, who uses two cesspool emptiers for this purpose. The contents are either discharged over arable land or disposed at the nightsoil tipping points.

Tins and indestructible household refuse are collected in built-up areas at monthly intervals by contract, employing the keroside method. Disposal is effected in disused gravel pits, where the refuse is periodically covered with soil.

The refuse tip serving Manca was fenced in during the year and this has assisted in maintaining the tip in a more satisfactory condition, since it is no longer open to indiscriminate dumping.

FLY NUISANCE.

In April a nuisance occurred in the Bridge Lane area of Wimblington from a plague of flies of the Cluster species. These invaded a number of dwellings for a period of several weeks and constant spraying was necessary to reduce their numbers. Dieldrin sprayed on external walls and porches in suitable locations and in outbuildings was found to be successful in checking the nuisance. Pressure was brought to bear on a number of poultry keepers to remove accumulations of manure and to take other steps to curtail fly breeding on their premises. One statutory notice under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was issued calling for the removal of poultry manure.

A nuisance occurred in Doddington arising from smell and noise caused by the rearing of a large number of ducklings on a small area of land in the centre of the village. A petition signed by 26 residents was received by the Council and as a result of inspections and representations the owners of the duck farm made arrangements to move the ducklings to a site remote from dwellings, the clearance taking approximately 2 months. As a condition of planning approval for a new cold store on the site the Council insisted on a provision that no livestock be permitted to be kept except those brought on the premises for the purpose of immediate slaughter.

MILK SUPPLY.

The whole of the Council's district is within a "designated area" for the supply of milk, which in the main is distributed by two firms operating from dairies outside the Council's area. There is one other milk retailer distributing milk in the area.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

There are now no licensed slaughterhouses in the Rural District, the seven butchers who have shops in the Area have the animals they purchase slaughtered in the neighbouring Urban Districts of March and Chatteris.

6½ lbs. of home killed beef which was unfit for human consumption was voluntarily surrendered and a condemnation certificate issued.

FOOD PREMISES.

(i). The number of food premises in the area is as follows:-

Grocer and general provision stores	...	...	20
Confectioners only	...	...	3
Butchers	...	...	7
Bakers	...	...	4
Fried Fish Shops..	...	...	6
Cafes	...	...	2

(ii). 18 premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice cream. No ice cream is manufactured in the area and all the retailers sell prepacked ice cream, which in every case is stored in proper refrigerator cabinets. There are no Dairies in the District.

(iii). 13 inspections of registered food premises were made during the year.

(iv). No new educational activity was undertaken during the year.

(v). Condemned tinstuffs are normally disposed of by burial at the refuse dumps. Rejected meat is either removed for disposal by burial or in the case of whole carcasses coloured with appropriate dye prior to removal by Knacker man.

(vi). No examination of whole consignments of food was necessary.

(vii). There are no ice cream manufacturers in the area.

(viii). An abstract of the provisions of the new Food Hygiene Regulations 1955/1956 has been distributed to all food premises in the district. 47 visits were made to food premises during the year. Byelaws for handling food were adopted by the Council in 1951 under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are no large caravan sites in the area. 6 Site licences were issued under Sections 3 & 5 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 authorising the use of caravans for a period of 3 years on individual sites, and 2 for one year only.

Some trouble occurred with one group of seasonal agricultural van dwellers encamped in a field near one village and action was necessary to secure their departure.

RODENT CONTROL.

Only a few complaints have been received regarding rats and mice and in the main the rodent destruction work carried out by the Council's workman has been confined to various sewage dykes and refuse tips.

Due to calls of other multifarious duties it is not possible to devote much time to rodent control work, but all complaints are investigated and the opportunity to check for the presence of vermin is taken when premises are visited in connection with other matters. Good liaison is maintained with the local officials of the Pest Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

Prescribed Particulars of the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	8	11	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	22	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	20	35	-	-
Total.....	53	68	-	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars. (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1).....	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)...	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)...	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.	
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage to floors (S.6).....	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7).					
(a) Insufficient.....	3	3	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).....	-	-	-	-	-
Total.....	5	5	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT.
Outwork
(Sections 110 and 111)

There are no outworkers in the district.

J.METCALFE,

Public Health Inspector.

